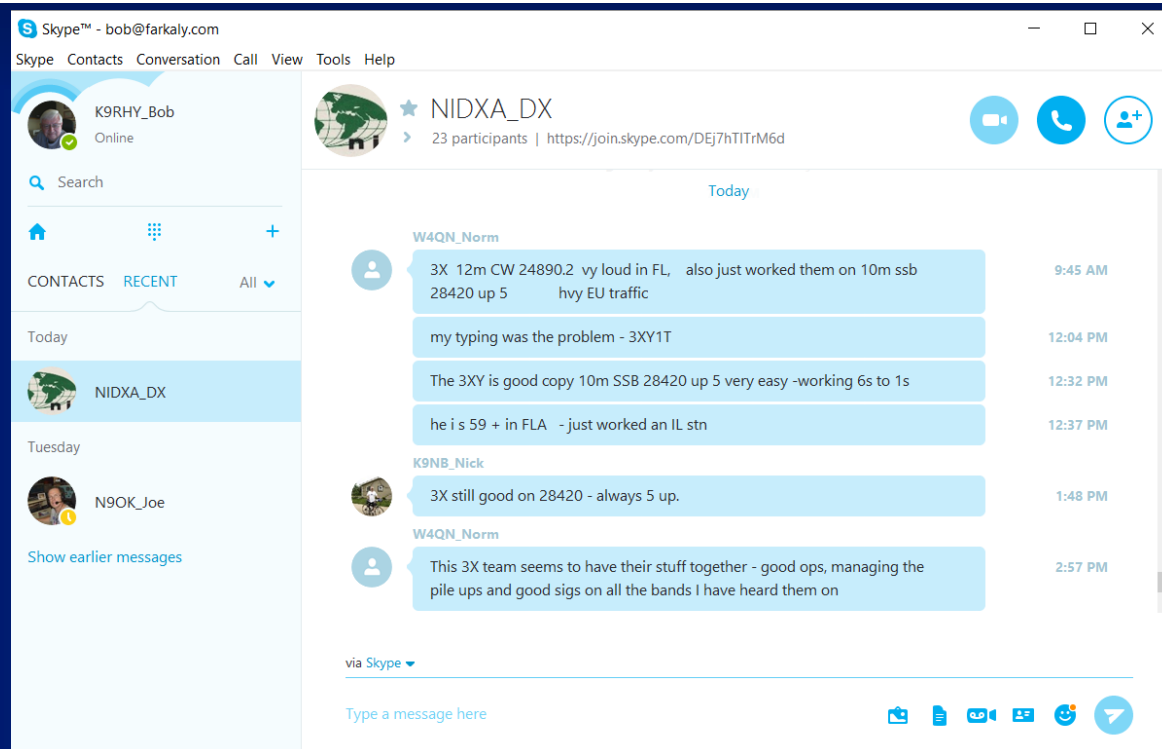


San Diego DX Club Bulletin

February 2016



DX Spotting via Skype

FEBRUARY PROGRAM
THE ANTENNA RESTRICTED DXer
By: Rick Borken, KØXB

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

John Vissat, NA6L



If you missed it (we had a full house at the January meeting) we were treated to a great panel presentation about Long Path Propagation by Glen, K6NA, Jim, W6YA and Jim, W6YI along with a lively awards presentation.

Presented by John Barcroft, K6AM, our 2015 Rookie Of The Year Award (ROY) went to Bob Barrie, K1ROA who had a genuine ATNO (all time new one) count of 194 for 2015. I reviewed his contacts and starting in January 2015 and up to early March he only made a handful of DXCC contacts. Bob, was there a station change at the beginning of March because on March 8th you turned into a DX machine?

We also started giving recognition and having fun with the Club Log system of tracking our standings.

Here are a few of the fun and factual 2015 statics gleaned from the powerful sorting tools contained in Club Log along with some impromptu awards in the following classes.

Youth DXer Of The Year (YDOTY): Levi, KK6NON with 133 DXCC entities worked in 2015 and he's not even retired -- he also had his membership paid spontaneously with a quick pass of the hat -- thanks for that everyone.

Family Feud DXers: Gayle, K6GO at 149 DXCC entities overall and husband Mike, NA6MB at 148 DXCC entities overall. "Honey it's my turn to use the radio!"

Competitive Buddies Engaged in Radio Sport (CBers): No close races?

Wild Bill, WB6BFG with 317 wkd and 314 cfm and John, NA6L with 316 wkd and 314 cfm

Wayne, NN6R with 302 wkd and Tom, N6JOJ with 301 wkd

Ron Richards, WB1EAZ with 332 wkd and Ron Rossen, N6XT with 330 wkd

John, W6JBR with 160 wkd and Bill, W6RGS with 158 wkd

Leon, N6VS with 334 wkd and Russ, K5OA also with 334 wkd -- who will break the tie?

As an addition to the above photo finish, Russ, K5OA "confirmed" 216 DXCC entities during 2015 a true QSLing machine, a role model to many of us! He could win the QSLer of the year award.

The All Around Award (triple A) went to Howard Groveman, W6HDG our V.P. for contacting 249 DXCC entities during 2015 using all modes (some were ATNOs and some were for additional bands/modes).

The club's data monster for 2015 was Rick KØXB, at 155 data contacts -- many were from his micro station during the winter of 2015 -- see the February meeting program, details to follow.

On another note it is nice to see (with a panadapter) and hear a continuing stream of quality DX stations and DXpeditions on the air. Even with bad solar conditions (SFI 96) the good DXpeditions are getting their signals out -- even on the high bands (10m/12m).

From the Prez (cont'd) . . .

At times we were also treated to overlapping DXpeditions. Currently operating or recently completed from my past 30 day list are the following:

3XY1T Guinea, 7P8C Lesotho, VP8SGI South Georgia Is, VP8STI South Sandwich Is, and K5P Palmyra.

There is no low SFI (bah, humbug) when working good DXpeditions!

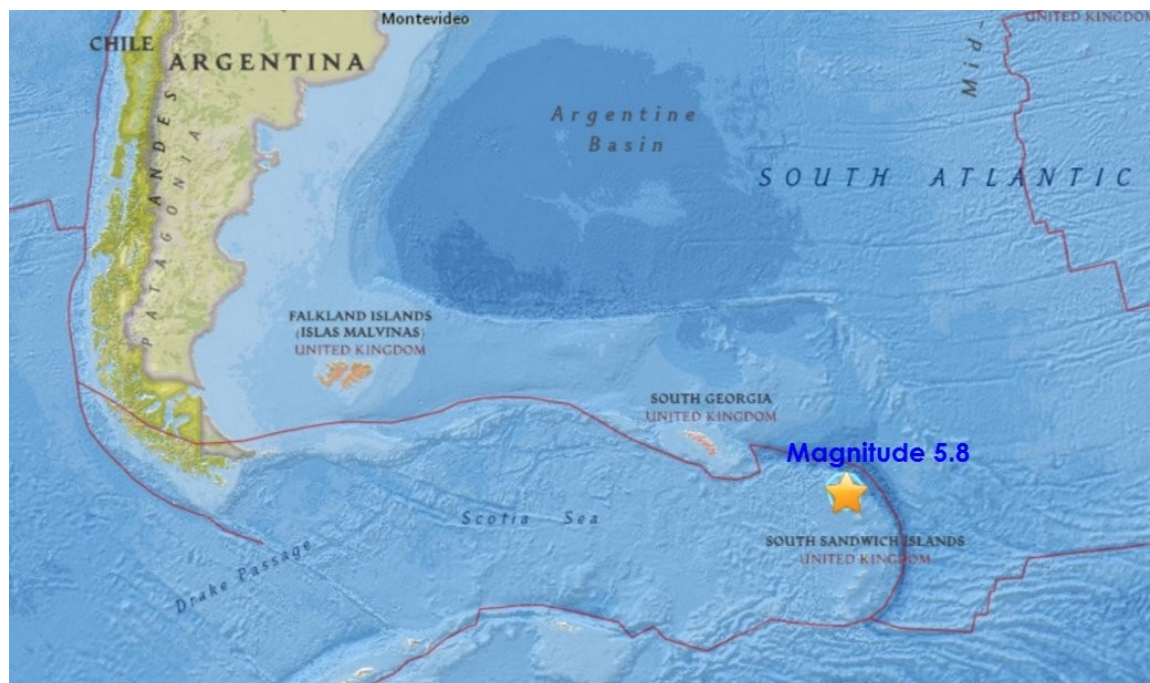
See you all at the meeting,

John, NA6L

Vice President Report

Howard, W6HDG

I get free earthquake notification emails from the USGS. Mark N6NNI told me about the service and it is quite interesting — especially for hams. So many of the distant places we contact are affected by earthquakes and lord knows I can use the geography refresher. I worked both Guinea and Papua New Guinea today and knew generally where Guinea was in West Africa but needed to check the map. But I knew exactly where Papua New Guinea was since I get frequent earthquake reports from that region. Just yesterday (Feb 18) I was notified of a 5.8 earthquake 60 km off the coast of South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands. Talk about being close to the recently ended DXpeditions! I have no idea if this affected



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the DX team since it had occurred two weeks ago. You can customize the notifications for certain areas of the world and set magnitude levels. Since we have 10,000 quakes every year in California, you really need to set up some strict parameters or you get bombarded with emails.

You will recognize the names of the entities where many earthquakes strike, particularly around the Pacific Plate known as the Pacific Ring of Fire. From Japan to the Philippines to Oceania, the entity names in the emails sound like a “DX Most Wanted” list.

If interested, go to <https://sslearthquake.usgs.gov/ens/> and sign up.

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Ellen, N6UWW



The January 2016 meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by John, NA6L, at the Sizzler Restaurant. John acknowledged V.P. Howard, W6HDG and Sec/Treas Ellen, N6UWW for hashing out the PayPal dues payment system which seems to be working flawlessly.

Visitors – Kurt, K7NV, Bo, N0BK and Ulla, K7AFB

New Members – The Club voted in Tom, K7YMG, Eric, NC6K, Glen, KJ6ZQH and Levi, KJ6NON. Welcome!

Old Business – Tom, N6JOJ reports that Noel, AG6KA is unable to continue as the Club's SANDARC rep. Steve, AI6CX volunteered to fill the position and will serve with N6JOJ.

Dennis, N6KI has found yet another vendor for Club shirts. Contact him at n6ki@arrl.net for details.

New Business – Wild Bill, WB6BFG offered \$2 toward (16 yr old) Levi, KK6NON's dues and challenged others in the group to come forward with donations. Levi's dues were paid in short order thanks to the generosity of several members in attendance.

Dennis, N6KI found a motorized crank-up tower for Pat, WA6MHZ and a work party will be held Feb 6th.

John, K6AM announced the Rookie of the Year Award: Bob, K1ROA worked 194 all time new ones within the last year. He started with a dipole in the attic and now has a SteppIR on a tower (thanks to Poway's new Antenna Ordinance!).

John, NA6L gave a pep talk on ClubLog and the benefits of bragging rights with the increased participation we have from Club members. Contact John if you need help getting your logs uploaded.

PayPal seems to be working well for dues payment. Members are reminded to include their callsign in the memo field.

Howard, W6HDG awarded the Heil microphone stand (promotional reward for timely dues payment) to Jim, W6YI.

John, K6AM announced that the most recent ladder is now posted on the website. Thanks to Arnie, W7BIA for serving as webmaster.

The Roundtable discussion ensued. Fred, W5BN has old CQ, QST and Ham Radio magazines going back to the 1960's if anybody wants them w5bn@san.rr.com

After the break, the group heard a discussion on long path DX by Jim, W6YA, Glenn, N6NA and Jim, W6YI. A copy of their presentation is available on the SDDXC.ORG website.

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance 1/29/2016 \$6081.46

Ellen, N6UWW

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 10 METERS

2/16	2/15	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	341	+1
2.	2.	NØRR	40	328	328	338	-
3.	3.	K6AM	40	319	326	330	+3
4.	4.	N6CW	40	?	297	325	-
5.	5.	W6YI	40	305	211	320	-
6.	8.	W6YOO	40	291	297	297	+2
7.	6.	K6XT	40	288	296	296	-7
8.	7.	KØXB	40	282	287	296	-
9.	-	WN6K	40	251	257	286	NEW
10.	9.	N7CW	40	258	258	284	-

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 40 METERS

2/16	2/15	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	337	348	348	-
2.	2.	K6XT	40	335	347	347	+2
3.	3.	NØRR	40	335	347	347	+3
4.	4.	K6AM	40	329	335	338	+2
5.	5.	W6YI	40	323	327	332	-
6.	6.	N6CW	40	?	302	332	-
7.	7.	N7CW	40	320	320	329	-
8.	8.	K6ZH	39	288	293	303	-
9.	9.	WN6K	40	234	239	273	+2
10.	-	W6YOO		?	252	252	NEW

Both ten and forty meters continue to be productive yielding a few new ones for a lot of us. Some very nice jumps in score come from our most active players. Our February champ, Jim, W6YA holds on handily to the top spot on both 10 and 40. He should be able to keep both for several more years.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 80, 20, 15 meters, and then the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2015

Congratulations to our 2015 ROTW, new member, Bob Barrie, K1ROA. Bob worked almost 200 all time new ones in 2015. This is one of the biggest one year jumps we have ever seen.

John, K6AM

SDDXC RESULTS 2015 CQ WPX PHONE DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
MULTI-TWO	NX6T (ops WQ6X N6ERD KB7V NA6MB N6KI NN6X N6EEG W6JBR WA3IHV AG6KA KJ6YXI KK6NON)	7,661,646	3,613	998	#2 W6, #5 N.A.
SO HP 15	ZF1A (W6VNR)	5,232,180	2,593	899	#2 NA #6 WORLD
SO LP ALL	WN6K	1,875,600	1,588	600	#1 W6 #18 WORLD
SO LP ALL	W6JBR	11,715	71	55	
SA HP ALL	KY6LA	334,180	419	310	#14 W6

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



From the SDDXC.ORG website and **highly recommended**: W6YA's [Deleted Entities Chase](http://www.sddxc.org/The%20Deleted%20Entities%20Chase.pps). Ya' GOTTA see this!

<http://www.sddxc.org/The%20Deleted%20Entities%20Chase.pps>

Cover Story: DX Spotting via Skype

Back in the "Good Old Days" of DXing, before packet networks became popular, a VHF (typically 2 meters) spotting network made all the difference when chasing a new one. You turned on the rig and the 2 meter radio, tuned to the club repeater frequency and checked in. You listened to the 2 meter radio for DX spots (sort of like the Cluster network we all connect to today). But the magic came from the interactivity. "Just worked 8Z4A up 11. He's moving up about a KHz at a crack". The biggest benefit of the repeater network was the tactical spotting and the back and forth chatter by other DXers on the frequency. I missed that when I moved to San Diego and continued to miss it when I retired back to the Midwest.

Today we have the packetcluster and packet networks. Open to all DXers - with the accompanying pluses and minuses— and email reflectors. (Although this is a topic for a future Bulletin, have you seen how frequently the Europeans spot the same station—and other abuses.) The Skype spotting network is not meant to replace the cluster or reflectors, rather it complements these networks with a tool that is focused on rapid, real-time communication.

Many thanks to Paula Uscian, K9IR for the following background and history:

The idea for the Skype-based chat room came from an email Norm W4QN posted to the NIDXA reflector on January 24 that said in part " Other active DX groups that I participate with use the Instant Messaging capability of SKYPE. I would encourage all those who currently have a SKYPE account (available to anyone at no cost) to consider using this technique. With the widely scattered NIDXA membership it can be very useful in coordinating in REAL TIME DX activity." Norm went on to elaborate how Skype had been used to help with various spotting scenarios.

I responded that I thought it was a great idea. As I use Skype for Business regularly, including the IM feature, I'm pretty familiar with how it works.

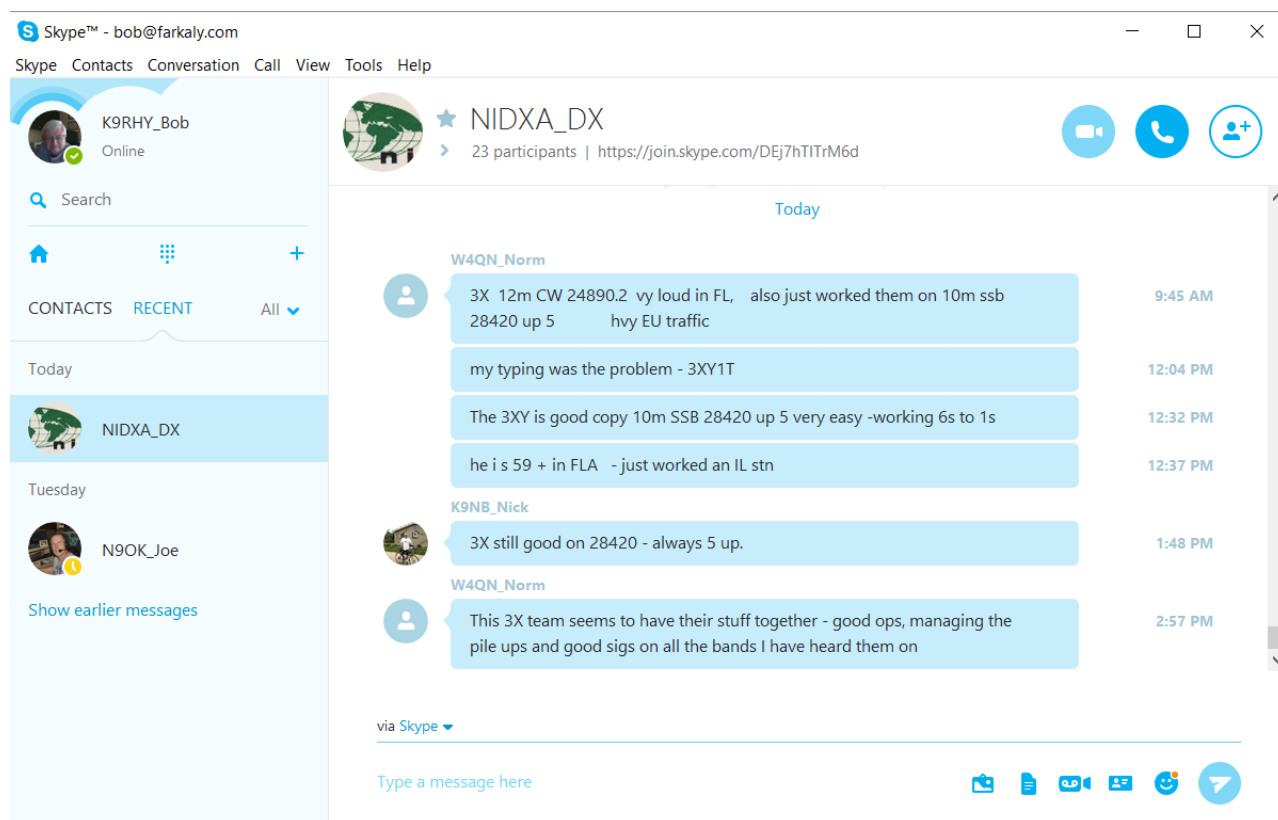
I've also used Skype to make lower cost phone calls home when traveling abroad. So I just went ahead and downloaded the Skype software for Windows onto my laptop, created a second Skype account using my call sign and first name (the preferred format for this purpose) and then (after a little bit of research) created a chat room called NIDXA_DX. I posted the existence of the room to the reflector and invited others to join me be sending their Skype account names.

From the Editor (cont'd)

Everything has grown from there. There's been a learning curve to resolve various issues people encountered, and that ultimately led to my creating an FAQ (now in its 4th generation) to help people learn how to get started and avoid the more common issues. We still can be baffled by some functionality, but for the most part everything works as needed. I also recently polled current chat room users for their thoughts on the room and any changes that may be needed. Once I get more responses, I'll post the results, though at this point I'm not expecting anything much to change regarding the chat room and its use.

The Skype spotting network isn't intended to replace the repeater. People who prefer spotting via the repeater can continue to do so, though if more people prefer Skype, those using the repeater for spotting may decrease--it would be difficult to do both! But candidly, I don't think that many people have been using the repeater for that purpose lately.

Skype also allows anyone with a reasonable internet connection to participate in the chat room; you no longer need to be in range of a repeater. And several of us find it easier to read spot info than try to listen to it while also trying to hear the DX.



Test your keyer (and yourself) with this:

“Mississippi sissies are sissier sissies than Tennessee sissies.”